



DEI Initiative: Creating Affinity Groups

By Eva Wu



At the beginning of the 2021/2022 league year, the JLWS created a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion task force with the intent to fully develop the leagues' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives. Sustainer Eva Wu chaired the task force with actives April Johnson, Paige Bosworth, Stephanie Flores del Vargas and Abby Becherer with the goal of spanning across all councils including finance, membership, community, and communications.


The committee tackled the membership goal of fostering a sense of inclusion, respect, value, and support by engaging members during town hall meetings with questions to analyze how the Junior League of Winston-Salem is creating an environment of inclusion and belonging.

Members indicated some discomfort initially fitting in with the League. A pattern emerged of finding a comfortable niche and cohort through casual and volunteer focused activities, such as the Unofficial Book club led by active Erin Green. The DEI task force led the members in a brainstorm session of potential other interested affinity groups during a general meeting.

The result is approximately ten affinity groups formed with self-appointed chairs that are still active as of this writing. In total, membership in the affinity groups tops the 200 mark. (Note many members belong to more than one group).



Participation in the affinity groups has provided members a great resource for socializing with league members among common connections such as housing locations, hobbies, professional similarities, and ethnic affiliation. JLWS members have enjoyed wine and jazz, yoga, eating out at the developing Winston-Salem food scene, and learning to cook classic Indian cuisine.

League members who are interested should contact the chair of the appropriate affinity groups to learn more or check out League Linker Facebook page where many groups post their upcoming activities. 



Affinity Groups 2022 - Google Sheets

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jJpIKxBRR6RFFymYkhg6CjuhqwWVa4xBEhenCvhoa0/edit#gid=0>

20+ League Linkers - Junior League of Winston-Salem | Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LeagueLinkersJLWS>



The Junior League of Winston-Salem is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

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The *Informer* is published two times a year by Junior League of Winston-Salem, Inc. The *Informer* accepts advertising. For more information, visit www.jlws.org/informer.

Letter from the President



Dear JLWS Members,

In the fall of 2019, when our nominating committee asked me to serve as 2020-21 President-Elect and 2021-22 President, we had no idea what was on the horizon: a global pandemic that would drastically affect how we all live and work. Like many other nonprofits and volunteer-led organizations, the JLWS saw an increased need for our services while we simultaneously had to learn new ways of operating.

As I read over this issue of the *Informer*, our members' commitment to finding ways to continue to serve and lead in our community and to connect as women to build a better Winston-Salem strikes me. From our DEI Task Force's initiatives to facilitate authentic connections and create welcoming spaces for members and League partners to our exciting return to in-person GMMs after many months of virtual and hybrid meetings and the upcoming Centennial celebrating our history and planning for the future with a sustainable gift to support K-12 education, the mission and work of the JLWS has not only continued during the pandemic but has found ways to grow and adapt as we look ahead to our next 100 years!

At our May GMM, we recognized members, placements, and partners that went above and beyond this past year in service of the JLWS mission. I was disappointed that my own COVID quarantine prevented me from celebrating in person with you, but I was there in spirit! I want to acknowledge our Sustainers of the Year: Beverly Huff, Carrie Swing, and Laura Piner, who received this recognition as Sustainers who worked full-time in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools during the 2021-22 school year. As a school librarian in WS/FCS, I can attest to how challenging the past few years have been for our public schools and teachers. I was moved that our Sustainer Council chose to honor these women who tirelessly serve our community through their everyday work with students.

I was also delighted to (virtually) present the Katharine Reynolds Johnston League Legacy Award to Sustainer Henri Brown for her lifetime of service to our community. Henri's commitment to improving children's literacy as a volunteer tutor and executive director of the Augustine Literacy Project and to expanding on Augustine's footprint as it became READWS is a testament to her support for JLWS's focus area of educating and mentoring youth. She continues to support reading teachers through her company Reading Basecamp and as a READWS educator trainer. She has worked to open access to specialized, evidence-based reading instruction for all children throughout her career; Henri exemplifies what it means to be a Junior League woman impacting our community.

In closing, I want to thank each of you for your ongoing support of our updated Junior League mission to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Every action you take, no matter how large or small—whether filling a volunteer shift, attending a committee meeting, sending an email to a community partner, or connecting socially with a fellow JLWS member—is another step toward using our collective power to effect change and create a more equitable community where all can thrive.

I look forward to continuing to serve alongside and learn from each of you!

Sincerely,

Liz Noland
2021-2022 President


AJLI Annual Conference 2022

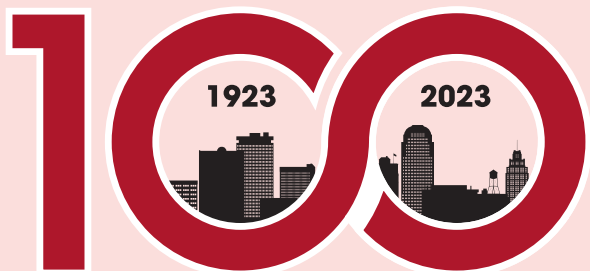
“Lighting the Way Forward” in Dallas!

By 2021-22 President Liz Noland & 2022-23 President Carrie Vickery

Over May 12-14, 2022, delegates and leaders from 187 leagues in the Association of Junior Leagues International attended the annual conference in Dallas, TX – the first in-person AJLI annual conference since 2019! This event brought together leagues and members from across the globe, including Kenya and Europe. We heard inspiring words on “Shattering the Glass Ceiling” from Sallie Krawcheck, CEO and Co-Founder of Ellevest, and “The Burden of Belonging” from Yrthya Dinzey-Flores, VP of DEI, Social Impact & Sustainability at Justworks. We networked with fellow league leaders, participated in breakout conference sessions focused around various topics, and celebrated the accomplishments of our sister leagues over the past year.

In addition to the “regular” business of the annual conference, the biggest item on the agenda was the proposal for a new AJLI mission statement. This proposal to update the language of our mission statement—but not the substance of the work that we do—was passed by the required two-thirds majority of voting delegates from Member Leagues thanks to the hard work of AJLI over the past three years. Stay tuned for more to come on our new mission statement, which will need to be adopted by the JLWS, in the months to come!

Outgoing 2020-2022 AJLI President Bett Williams shared with us her fond memories of Winston-Salem, where she earned her B.A. in English and Politics from Wake Forest University. We came away from the conference energized and excited for the league year to come and how we can continue to help “light the way forward” for our league, partners, and community, in our role as JLWS Members and volunteers! 



 JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
WINSTON-SALEM

**THE JUNIOR LEAGUE
OF WINSTON-SALEM
TURNS 100!**

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF WINSTON-SALEM is turning 100 next year! Our Centennial celebration has three main components, which provide opportunities for every member to participate.

COMMUNITY GIFT

The JLWS will create a new endowment at The Winston-Salem Foundation. The endowment will support individual schools within the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system, which aligns with our mission of increasing children’s literacy. The JLWS aims to raise \$100,000 for the endowment. Funds raised by the fall fundraiser — **The Little Black Dress Initiative** — will kick off fundraising efforts.

EXHIBITION

In February of 2023, an exhibition will open on the Lake Porch at Reynolda House Museum of American Art that will highlight the JLWS’s milestones and contributions to the city and surrounding area. The exhibition will be open to the public and will educate museum-goers on the JLWS and its historic place in the history of the Reynolda estate and Winston-Salem.

GALA

On March 25, 2023, members will celebrate the JLWS’s 100th birthday at Forsyth Country Club with a gala. More details to follow!

First In-Person GMM

By Bethany Leggett

After two years of meeting in virtual and small-group settings, our chapter was able to host our first in-person GMM at Footnote in March. Many arrived early for some pre-meeting socializing, including drinks and food, reconnecting with friends they haven't seen in a while and meeting new members who have joined our ever-growing chapter. A few even had time to pop over to Bookmarks to pick up new books to donate for the Spring Book Drive of BookWORM before the official portion of the evening got underway at 7 p.m.


The evening's agenda was packed with chances to highlight our chapter's role in the community, from the outstanding update of the fall drive of BookWORM to a preview of the in-person Tour of Fine Spaces. Sustainer Susan Colon of Berkshire Hathaway gave great insight into the real estate market, both nationally and here in Winston Salem, too. Eva Wu, DEI Task Force Interim Chair, and Stephanie Flores de Valgaz, Member-at-large and DEI Task Force, later led our members through a DEI survey for feedback about future educational training opportunities.



Kristie Moesner Rhodes, Volunteer Development Chair, led an engaging elevator pitch training where women around each table were able to write their own taglines for what the Junior League of Winston Salem means to them. For some, they focused on how our chapter supports women and families within our community. Others spoke about our chapter as a way to meet other like-minded women and develop lasting friendships. The chatter around the tables captured such an exciting variety of ways our members engage with each other and across the city.

Another engaging moment of the evening was the Placement Fair. Members were able to visit with at least one member from every committee at tables around Footnote, and there was even a fun game for those who made it to every table by the end of the fair. Kimberlee Blaylock, placement liaison, also walked through the placement matching tool for members, giving a preview of how to use the tool for next year's placement options.

Finally, members involved with the newly formed Affinity Groups updated everyone on how much fun the clubs are having as they plan events around town, from stitching

and craft nights to wine tastings and hiking trails. Most groups post their next events on the League Linkers Facebook page, so keep an eye out for future happenings! 



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RECIPES

From the Kitchen of Junior League of Jackson, Mississippi

Mustard Pork Tenderloin

Serves 8

1 pork tenderloin (roughly 2 1/2 lbs)	1 Tbs	Chopped Onion
~ Creole mustard to coat pork	2 Tbs	Chopped Green Onion
1/4 cup Water	1 clove	Garlic, Minced
1/4 cup Red Wine	1/3 cup	Mayonnaise
2 Tbs Unsalted Butter	2 Tbs	Creole Mustard

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Completely cover tenderloin with a thin coat of mustard. Place on rack in a shallow baking pan roasting for 20 minutes per pound or until internal temperature registers 160-165 degrees on a meat thermometer. To prepare mustard sauce, remove tenderloin and plack baking pan with drippings on stove over medium-high heat. Pour in 1/4 cup water and scrape to release browned bits. Add red wine, stir and bring to a boil. Reduce temperature to glaze. In a separate pan saute together onions, green onions, garlic and butter. Add this mixture to the glaze. Let sauce cool briefly. Blend mayonnaise and mustard, then slowly add sauce, a bit at a time, until desired consistency is reached. Serve mustard sauce with the slice pork tenderloin.

NOTES FROM JLWS HEADQUARTERS

- **RETURN** all furniture to its proper place after meetings.
- **WASH** any utensils, serving trays, etc. and return to their proper storage place.
- **CLEAN** all counters and tables after use. (Cleaning supplies are located in the kitchen.)
- **PLEASE** remove garbage and place in trash bin marked #201 downstairs.
- **NOTE** we are unable to store large quantities of food.
- **FEEL FREE** to leave any leftover paper supplies as we will combine them.
- **WHEN LEAVING** the office return the temperature controls back to 73 degrees.
- **TURN OFF** all lights before exiting the office (some emergency lighting will remain lit).

Four-Cheese Fritters

Serves 20

8 oz	Shredded Swiss Cheese	1/2 bunch	Fresh Parsley, Chopped
		1 Tbs	Cayenne Pepper
8 oz	Shredded Mozzarella Cheese	1 Tbs	Salt
		1 cup	All-Purpose Flour
8 oz	Grated Parmesan Cheese (= 2 Cups)	~	Pepper to taste
		~	Vegetable Oil for Deep Frying
6 oz	Cottage Cheese	~	Marinara Sauce
10 large	Eggs, Lightly Beaten		

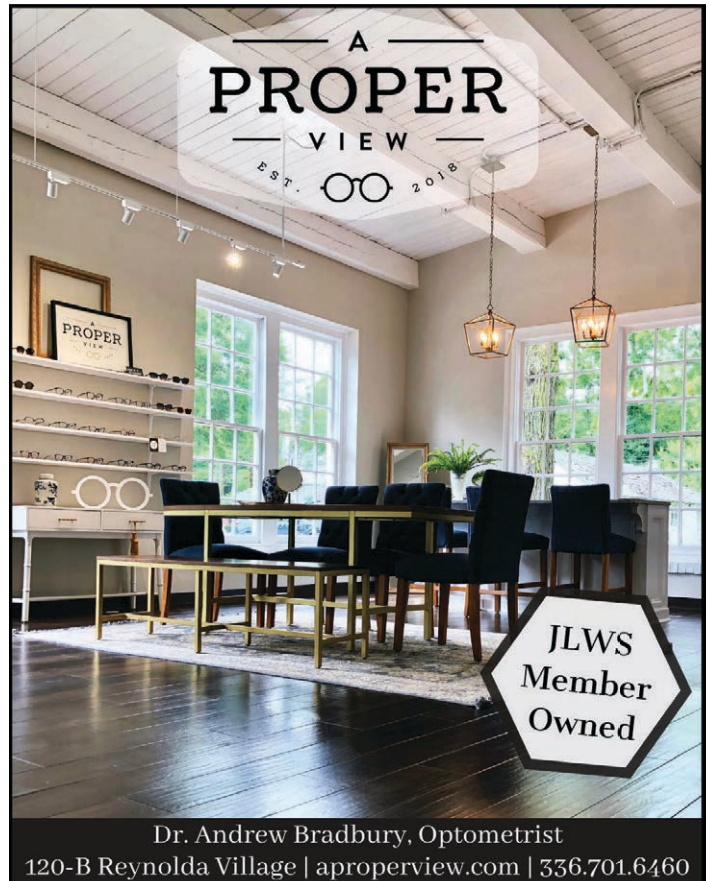
Combine all ingredients except vegetable oil and mix well. For each fritter, carefully drop 1 heaping tablespoon of cheese mixture into hot oil. Fry until fritters are golden, 3 minutes. Drain and serve immediately with marinara sauce.

Venison Sausage Balls

Yields 75

1 1/2 lbs	Ground Venison or Ground Round
1 lb	Hot Sausage
1 cup	Sour Cream
1 jar	Major Grey Chutney (8oz) Chopped
1/2 cup	Sherry

Combine venison (ground round) and sausage, form into balls. Cook meatballs over medium heat, draining off fat. In a saucepan, blend sour cream, chutney, and sherry. Add meatballs and heat thoroughly. If the mixture thickens too much, add extra sherry. Serve hot in a chafing dish. Sausage balls may be made ahead and reheated.



Dr. Andrew Bradbury, Optometrist
120-B Reynolda Village | aproperview.com | 336.701.6460

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